

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03072 091028Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----091034Z 084017 /14
O 090955Z MAR 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4856

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3072

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW

1. I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR TENTATIVE ITINERARY AND AM PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO NOTE THAT YOU WILL HAVE A DAY TO SPEND WITH US AT THE EMBASSY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR TALKS WITH THE SOVIETS. I SHALL BE SENDING ALONG SHORTLY MY SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR SCHEDULED THAT DAY.

2. MRS. TOON AND I WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU AND MRS. VANCE WOULD STAY WITH US AT SPASO HOUSE DURING YOUR VISIT. IN ADDITION TO OUR PERSONAL PLEASURE IN HAVING YOU WITH US, THERE ARE STRONG SUBSTANTIVE REASONS WHICH I BELIEVE MAKE IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO LIVE IN U.S. FACILITIES WHILE IN MOSCOW. THESE ARE:

-- ACCEPTING SOVIET HOSPITALITY--WHICH TENDS WILLY-NILLY TO BE LAVISH--INCURS AN IMPLICIT OBLIGATION FOR RETURN HOSPITALITY IN WASHINGTON WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO MATCH.

-- GROMYKO NORMALLY STAYS WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON, AND WORKS OUT OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

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-- EMBASSY FACILITIES PROVIDE OVERWHELMING ADVANTAGES REGARDING SECURITY, PARTICULARLY OF CONVERSATIONS. NO CONVERSATION IN THE SOVIET GUEST HOUSE WILL BE SECURE, AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT SECURITY CAN BE ABSOLUTE EVEN FOR DOCUMENTS HANDLED THERE IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET CAPACITY FOR INSTALLING COVERT PHOTOGRAPHIC DEVICES ON THEIR OWN PROPERTY.

3. WE HAVE AMPLE ROOM AT SPASO FOR YOU AND MRS. VANCE, A SECURITY MAN, AND TWO SENIOR MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY; THE QUARTERS ARE COMFORTABLE AND OUR STAFF IS GOOD. OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF YOUR PARTY CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITH OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY WHO HAVE GUEST BEDROOMS, OR IN A HOTEL, AS THEY PREFER. ALTHOUGH OUR OFFICE SPACE IS FAR FROM LAVISH, WE CAN CERTAINLY MAKE AVAILABLE IN THE CHANCERY ADEQUATE WORK SPACE FOR YOU AND YOUR PARTY.

4. I REALIZE THAT IN SOME RESPECTS THESE RECOMMENDATIONS DIFFER FROM THE PRACTICES OF YOUR PREDECESSOR, BUT I BELIEVE THEY REPRESENT A SALUTARY CHANGE IN OUR MODUS OPERANDI AND WOULD NOT INCUR SERIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE SOVIETS. THEY DOUBTLESS PREFER ARRANGEMENTS WHICH GIVE THEM THE ABILITY TO MONITOR YOUR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR STAFF, AND WHICH CREATE IMPLICIT PERSONAL OBLIGATIONS, BUT CAN HARDLY TAKE OFFENSE AT OUR FOLLOWING PRACTICES SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON. WE SHOULD NOT PLAY THEIR GAME.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, MINISTERIAL VISITS, CAT-A, CHEROKEE 03/09/77
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW03072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840076-1053, N770001-0790
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770378/aaaacqpi.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e85c5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3162822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, UR, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e85c5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009